

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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OUR REFERENCE RS-NTK

March 12, 2015

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

SUBJECT: House Concurrent Resolution No. 43, Requesting the Honolulu Police Department to Establish a Family Violence Unit Staffed with Officers Specifically Trained to Handle All Complaints of Family Violence

I am Richard C. Schaab, Captain of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Honolulu Police Department, City and County of Honolulu.

The Honolulu Police Department opposes House Concurrent Resolution No. 43, Requesting the Honolulu Police Department to Establish a Family Violence Unit Staffed with Officers Specifically Trained to Handle All Complaints of Family Violence.

The Honolulu Police Department's Criminal Investigation Division has a Child and Family Violence Detail that is staffed by officers who are specifically trained to handle family violence and child abuse cases. Currently, there are five female and nine male investigators assigned to the Child and Family Violence Detail.

With the limited resources that we currently have, it would not be efficient for investigators from a single unit to respond to all calls of domestic violence. Patrol officers are trained to respond to initial calls and provide service in a timely manner. Due to the dynamics and volatility of domestic violence crimes, it is imperative that we reach these victims as quickly as possible.

The statistics for 2014 were:

- 1,632 abuse warnings
- 4,588 domestic violence cases generated
- 7,969 argument cases were responded to by patrol officers

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As a police department, all officers are all equally capable of providing excellent service to the public. We do not choose personnel based on their age, ethnicity, religion, sexual preference, or gender. For those selected for specialized units, additional training is provided, including gender-sensitive training.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 43 references the Houston Police Department that combined its sex crimes and family violence units and renamed it "Special Victims," who still are under the Criminal Investigations Command.

One concern is when an employee is a suspect in a domestic violence case. When employees are accused of any criminal offense, those crimes are investigated by the Professional Standards Office. In these incidents, a Professional Standards Office investigator responds to the scene and carries the investigation to prosecution.


The Honolulu Police Department urges you to oppose House Concurrent Resolution No. 43, Requesting the Honolulu Police Department to Establish a Family Violence Unit Staffed with Officers Specifically Trained to Handle All Complaints of Family Violence.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,


Richard C. Schaab, Captain
Criminal Investigation Division

APPROVED:


Louis M. Kealoha
Chief of Police